

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND PERMITTING

SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR

SOUTHCENTRAL REGIONAL OFFICE
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March 16, 2012

Via Email & U.S. First Class Mail

Rick Parkin
Environmental Protection Agency
222 W. 7th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99513
Parkin.richard@epa.gov

Re: State of Alaska Nominations of Dr. Phyllis Weber Scannell and Dr. Dirk van Zyl
to Peer Review Panel of Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment

Dear Mr. Parkin:

As you know, the State of Alaska has communicated to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on numerous occasions that the Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment that EPA is preparing is premature and unwarranted(c) until a Section 404 permit application for an actual proposed project is submitted to and reviewed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. While the State does not waive any of its objections to this process, given that EPA is going forward with the assessment, the State believes that individuals with qualified expertise and unbiased perspective must be appointed to the peer review panel. Therefore, State of Alaska nominates Dr. Phyllis Weber Scannell and Dr. Dirk van Zyl as members of the peer review panel.

Both Dr. Scannell and Dr. van Zyl have extensive, demonstrated expertise in the analysis of impacts, including water quality impacts, associated with metals mining (including porphyry copper and gold mining). Neither of these individuals represents the State in reviewing the assessment. The resumes for these individuals are enclosed. The State has also nominated these individuals using EPA's on-line nomination form.

"Develop, Conserve, and Enhance Natural Resources for Present and Future Alaskans."

EPA-7609-0013323_00001

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, or feel free to contact Dr. Scannell or Dr. van Zyl directly regarding their respective qualifications for and interest in the panel.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Crafford", written in a cursive style.

Thomas Crafford
Director, Office of Management & Permitting
Department of Natural Resources

cc: Betzy Colon
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